

TEACHERS - EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, SPECIAL EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION DISORDERS, & SPECIAL EDUCATION (BIRTH - AGE 5) CERTIFICATION

Early childhood, elementary, and secondary education teachers instruct children of preschool age onward in social and academic skills.

OES - SOC Code: **25-3000** Secondary School Teacher,
25-2041 Special Education Teacher,
25-2011 Preschool, 25-2012 Kindergarten,
25-2021 Elementary School,
25-2022 Middle School.

Fees:

Application Fee	\$30.00
Renewal Fee	\$15.00
Fingerprint Analysis	\$60.00

Renewal Date, every four years.

Number of Utah Licensee's, number not available.

Utah Statute/Rule

Requirements:

The Basic Certificate is issued for four years and upon completion of two years of successful teaching experience, a continuing certificate called a Standard Certificate may be issued. A letter of recommendation from the employing school district is required for this certificate along with a check for \$15.00 made out to the Utah State Office of Education for processing. If a teacher who has been issued a Basic Certificate does not teach immediately or has an interruption in service of more than four years, the candidate may request renewal of the Basic Certificate by presenting nine quarter hours (six semester hours) of upper division credit completed in the area of certification during the preceding five-year period prior to application. If the successful experience from the first year of teaching to the second year of teaching is greater than five years, the first year of experience will not apply toward the required experience needed for the Standard Certificate.

Basic Teaching Certificate - An applicant for the Basic Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary, Special Education, Communication Disorders, or Special Education (Birth - Age 5) Certificate must have:

1. Graduated with a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
2. Completed an approved program for the preparation of early childhood, elementary, secondary, special education or special education (Birth-Age 5) teachers, or communication disorders specialists which has met the standards for program approval adopted by the Utah State Board of Education.

Early Childhood Certificate - is required for teaching kindergarten and permits assignment in kindergarten through grade three; it is recommended for those teaching in formal programs below kindergarten level. An alternative policy permits elementary certificated teachers who have been hired to teach kindergarten to qualify for an Early Childhood Certificate. The provisions of the alternative policy are as follows:

3. The candidate for an Early Childhood Certificate shall hold a Standard Elementary Certificate and have been employed to teach kindergarten by a school district.
4. The district shall obtain a letter of authorization for the individual assigned to a kindergarten position.
5. The candidate shall complete an approved program of early childhood education at an accredited institution of higher education. (An approved program may include in district service.) This program shall consist of not more than 15 quarter hours (10 semester hours) of credit and may be based on demonstrated competence on the part of the candidate. Practice experience should, as far as possible, be in the regularly assigned kindergarten classroom of the candidate.

Elementary Teaching Certificate - is required for teaching in grades 1 through 8. The 1-8 certificate permits a teacher to teach any academic area in grades one through six. The teacher, however, must be subject specific endorsed to teach assigned subjects at the seventh and eighth grade levels.

6. If the individual is an applicant for the Basic Elementary Teaching Certificate as well as the Basic Early Childhood Certificate, he/she must have appropriate course work and laboratory experience or otherwise demonstrate those competencies prescribed for prospective intermediate grade teachers that provide greater depth in academic subjects to be taught.
7. A Basic Early Childhood Certificate may also be issued to an applicant who holds or is eligible to hold a Basic or Standard Elementary Teaching Certificate and who has completed two years teaching a full kindergarten or pre-kindergarten program. The Early Childhood Certificate will be issued to run concurrently with the Elementary Teaching Certificate.
8. Middle Level Certificate is not required of teachers assigned to the middle school; however, the Middle Level Certificates previously issued will continue to be renewed based on existing requirements.

Secondary Teaching Certificate - with subject endorsement(s) is required for teaching grades 6 through 12. The 6-12 certificate requires a major and minor, or composite major, except for approved exceptions. Secondary certification holders shall not teach in a self-contained classroom at the sixth grade level. Secondary teaching candidates shall have completed an approved teaching major and minor, or composite major, except for approved exceptions, consistent with subjects taught in Utah secondary schools. The certificate shall be endorsed for all subjects in which the candidate has at least a minor, has completed equivalent training, or has demonstrated competence in the subject(s) in accordance with criteria established by the Utah State Board of Education.

9. A teaching major, as required for state certification, includes not fewer than 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of credit in one subject. At least one-half must be in upper division work.
10. A minor includes not fewer than 16 semester hours or 24 quarter hours of credit in

one subject.

11. A composite major includes not fewer than 46 semester hours or 69 quarter hours of credit, distributed in two or more related subjects.

Special Education Certificate - (K-12) for teaching students with disabilities is issued by the Utah State Board of Education with endorsements in the following areas:

12. Mild/Moderate - permits the holder to teach students with disabilities who need instruction in Core Curriculum based academic, behavior, and life skill demands, regardless of setting (resource or self-contained), or category of disability.
13. Severe - permits the holder to teach students with learning/behavior/adaptive deficits, who need instruction in functional academic, functional behavior, and functional life skill demands, regardless of setting (resource or self-contained), or category of disability.
14. Hearing Impaired - permits the holder to teach students who are deaf or hearing impaired.
15. Visually Impaired - permits the holder to teach students who are blind or visually impaired. Special Education teaching candidates shall have completed an approved program for teaching students with mild/moderate, severe, hearing, or visual handicaps. The certificate will be endorsed for the area(s) in which the program is completed. Holders of Special Education Certificates may also be issued endorsements in English as a Second Language, Bilingual, and Driver Education, but are restricted to providing services to special education students only.

Communication Disorders Certificate - is issued by the Utah State Office of Education for teaching pupils with communication disorders. The teacher may be endorsed in either speech/language pathology or audiology or both. This certificate/endorsement permits service at the elementary and/or secondary level (K-12).

16. Communication Disorders certification candidates shall have completed an approved program for teaching pupils with communication disorders which shall have included the master's degree or 55 quarter hours earned after meeting requirements for a bachelor's degree and which shall have met the standards for program approval adopted by the Utah State Office of Education.

Provisional Communication Disorders Certificate - may be issued to a candidate who has:

17. Completed an approved bachelor's degree program in communication disorders at an accredited institution, including a practice experience in a school setting.
18. Acquired the competencies necessary for assignment as a Communication Disorders Specialist at job entry level with any limitations noted by the preparing institution.
19. Under the bachelor's degree program option, a Provisional Communication Disorders Certificate may be issued for two years. The candidate must be admitted to an accredited graduate program. Continued validity during this period of time will be contingent upon the candidate's filing with the State Office of Education evidence of completion of at least nine quarter hours (six semester hours) of credit each year which is applicable to the acquisition of a master's degree or equivalent in communication disorders. After five years, the Provisional Communication

Disorders Certificate may no longer be reissued, and the candidate must qualify for a Standard Communication Disorders Certificate.

Special Education (Birth-Age 5) Certificate - is required for teaching infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children with disabilities. Special Education (Birth-Age 5) teaching candidates shall have completed an approved program which addresses early childhood special education competencies, birth through age 5. Candidates completing an approved Special Education (Birth-Age 5) Certification program on or before June 1, 1994 shall also be recommended for the Early Intervention Credential by the Utah Department of Health. Certificate holders who teach children who are hearing impaired (Birth-age 5) or vision impaired (birth-age 5) or both, in self contained, categorical classrooms shall hold an endorsement for Hearing Impaired (Birth-Age 5) or Vision Impaired (Birth-Age 5) or both by June 30, 2003. Teachers, who hold an equivalent certificate from out of state, will be required to meet the current standards when renewing or applying for Utah certification.

Standard Teaching Certificate - An applicant for the Standard Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary, Special Education, Communication Disorders, or Special Education (Birth Age 5) Certificate shall have completed at least two years of successful teaching experience under a Basic Teaching Certificate or its equivalent. For more information contact Utah Department of Education.

Regulatory Agency:

Utah Department of Education
250 East 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Phone No.(801)538.7500
<http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/cert/require/certificates.htm>

Professional Associations & Organizations:

Utah Adult Education Services
David Steele, Director
Contact: Sandra Grant, Adult Education Specialist
250 East 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Phone No. (801) 538-7821
<http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us>